

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-34 add 40-45 remain in the application for further prosecution. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 19, 28, 40, 41, 43, and 45 have been amended. Claims 35-39 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 35-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,623,006 (Weiss).

Claims 1-8, 11-16, 19-25, and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,644,611 (Tai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,175 (deBoer et al.).

Claims 9, 10, 17, 18, 26, 27, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.V. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tai and deBoer, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,135,884 (Hedrick et al.).

Personal Interview and Interview Summary

The Applicant notes with appreciation the interview conducted with Examiner Hotaling on June 21, 2007. Pursuant to the discussions in the interview, the Applicant has amended the pending claims.

The Applicant agree with the Interview Summary Sheet provided at the end of the interview in which the Examiner acknowledged the proposed amendments to independent claims 1 and 40 overcome the prior art of record, including Weiss, Tai, deBoer, and Hedrick.

Independent Claims 11, 19, and 28

Applicant has also amended independent claims 11, 19, and 28 in a manner similar to the proposed amendment of claim 1, which was discussed at the interview. Accordingly, Applicant

believes that claims 11-34 are also allowable over the prior art of record, for the same reasons as claims 1-10.

Conclusion

It is Applicant's belief that all of the pending claims 1-34 and 40-45 are now in condition for allowance and actions towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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